

Build an Abaco Parrot Nest

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Materials:

1. empty oatmeal container or similar cylindrical container, cut in half longitudinally
2. adult parrot, chick and egg cut outs (from Bahama Parrot colouring book)
3. paint, crayons, markers
4. glue
5. real leaves or leaves cut out of paper or magazines

How to:

1. Have an adult use a serrated knife or scissors to cut the container. Poster board can also be used for a 2D nest.
2. Paint/colour the "nest" to resemble limestone.
3. Cut out and colour parrots, chicks and eggs.
4. Attach chicks and eggs at the bottom of the nest (nest floor).
5. One parent could be attached inside the nest and another at the entrance.
6. Decorate the nest entrance with plants. In nature this camouflage helps protect the parrots.
7. Display your project!

Discussion:

As you cut out the parrots and colour them you can talk about characteristics: colour, size, etc. Talk about the habitat that the parrots live in. Gradually build and decorate the nest. Discuss why the parrots nest in the ground: why is it a benefit? Why not nest in trees? Can it be a bad thing - why? What are the threats faced by Bahama Parrots? Can any of these be avoided? Talk about forest fires and hurricanes and their potential effects.

Alternatives:

1. Create cut outs of some common parrot predators: snakes, cats, raccoons, etc. Introduce them to the nest and discuss what the result might be.